



9/1/25

Yesterday was the 17th anniversary of when Tim preached at Summit (Harvest) for the very first time. Wow. Changed our lives. 17 years has gone by so fast. I'm so thankful the Lord brought us here.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Matthew 6:19-24

Jesus was teaching His famous sermon on the mount where crowds of people came to hear from Him. What brought them to Him? I imagine it was a combination of things. He spoke with authority and conviction that they had probably never heard before, and He genuinely cared for them. They were not a means to an end for Him. And He healed them. He brought authority, power, and love all wrapped up in one wonderful gift to them (and me).

In this part of His sermon, Jesus spoke of what we treasure, what we focus our attention on, and what we serve. Truly, I will focus on what I truly treasure, and what I treasure, I will serve. The question is, is what I'm serving and treasuring worthy of my attention.

Vs. 19-21 ~ Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal." The things that I value on this earth are just temporary. Things like body image, stuff, position, success in the temporary things of life. It's not that these things are all bad... they just become bad if they are what I place all my value in. They will NOT last. Jesus is not calling me away from treasuring these things to bully me or shame me. He's calling me to the greater, more lasting treasure... with Him.

He said, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." The things of heaven are imperishable, unfading, and undefiled. The treasures of heaven are eternal... love, joy, peace, hope, holiness, righteousness.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." In Romans 6:19, Paul said, "For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more

lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification"
This, too, is all about what I treasure. If I treasure the things of impurity and lawlessness, I will have my heart and mind set on them. If I treasure the things of God, I will have my heart and mind set on Him. Lord, what do I treasure? If I were brought before a court of law, what would the evidence prove? I pray that You'll continue to change my heart and my mind so that I treasure You more and more.

Vs. 22-23 ~ So first... I have to examine what I genuinely treasure. I also have to pay attention to what I'm paying attention to. Where is my focus? Jesus said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light." What I focus my attention on will determine my health and light. "If your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."

Well, I can rationalize anything. How do I know if what I'm giving my attention to is light or bad? I mean, some things are obvious... like... it is never good for any reason to look at pornography. That's kind of a no brainer. But there are a lot of things that I could say, "Well, this is not a bad thing in and of itself, so it must be okay." I think the question is less about what I'm focusing on in so many cases, and more about my motivation. Why am I focusing on that thing? I do what I do because I think what I think because I want what I want because I worship/treasure what I worship/treasure. If I'm focusing on something, I have to ask, "What am I thinking about that thing? What do I think it will get me? What do I want to get from it?" The easiest thing for me to understand this with is body image. I have struggled with it for so many years, thinking my worth was in my appearance... and therefore, when moth and rust decay my appearance, what does that mean?

*So... I do... work like crazy to restrict calories and workout... because
I think... I have to be thin or I'm not worthy... because
I want... to be thin and beautiful... because
I worship/treasure... Beauty*

But moth and rust destroy. Focusing all my attention on beauty never produces what God calls beautiful, "the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit" (1 Peter 3:4). Serving beauty culture necessarily pulls me away from the Lord.

But being healthy as a temple of the Holy Spirit is good, right??? It might be. It's all in my motivation. How do I know if my motives are good? I can probably answer that by examining what it's producing in me. Is it producing the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control), or is it producing anger, frustration, worry, despair, searching for escape? What I'm experiencing in my attitudes and emotions will reveal where I'm focusing my attention.

"If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" That's just like what Paul said in Romans 6:19, lawlessness leads to more lawlessness! Focusing on the treasures of heaven and the light of God will lead to more fruit of the Spirit. Focusing on the treasures of earth and what's bad will lead to more of what's bad. Jesus spells it out for me so clearly, and yet I so

often try to prove Him wrong. He's GOD! Why not just trust what He says and do it His way? He's not calling me away from what's bad to hurt me. He's calling me away from what's bad to protect me!!!

Vs. 24 ~ Here's the thing I need to understand, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." Whatever I treasure, I will focus my attention on. Whatever I focus my attention on, I will serve.

My husband says I'm a terrible multi-tasker. If he's trying to talk with me while I'm looking at a text or something, I will literally not hear him. It drives him nuts. One of the worst things I do to him is let my phone distract me while he's talking to me, and then I don't hear what he's saying. When I choose the phone over my husband, I am treasuring whatever is on my phone... I'm giving my attention to that phone... and I'm serving the person on the other end of that text... and that means that I'm NOT treasuring my husband in that moment, I'm NOT giving him my attention, and I'm NOT serving him as his faithful wife. Ugh! I am really trying to overcome this!!! I know it hurts him.

What's even worse is that I do the same to the Lord. I get distracted by things that I want to say I don't treasure... like the desire to lose weight that never goes away. But my decision to give other things my attention when I know the Lord wants me to spend that time with Him, means that I serve whatever I'm dwelling on. I cannot serve God and money. Well... overall, money's not a big thing for me... so do I just throw out this verse? No... anything that has higher precedence than the Lord is what I serve... I cannot serve God and body image. I cannot serve God and SELF. I cannot serve God and anything else. There is only room for one throne in my heart.

Why let Jesus be on my throne? He's the only one who loved me so much that He stepped down from His eternal throne and became like me, so that He could prove His love to me through His death and resurrection. His treasure was glorifying His Father and saving me. His focus was accomplishing the work God the Father sent Him to do. He served the Father to the point of death on a cross. And because He lives, I live. Nothing can compare with what He's done for me. He didn't ask me to treasure Him in order to be saved. He saved me, so I treasure Him. He didn't ask me to focus on the light in order to be saved. He, the light, came to me, so I fix my eyes on Him. He didn't tell me I had to serve Him perfectly in order to be saved. But He, God Himself, came and served me, so I serve Him BECAUSE I'm saved. O Lord, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in You. I want to spend the rest of my life on earth and into eternity treasuring You, paying attention to You, and serving You. Please help me not to be distracted from that. I'm like the dog in the movie, Up, who kept getting distracted and saying, "Squirrel!!" Let me just say, "Jesus!"